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PROGRAM Jack Anderson STATION WEAM Radio  
Mutual Network

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SUBJECT Vitali Federchuk, New Chief of KGB

JACK ANDERSON: The Soviet Union has a new chief of its secret police but his background remains a mystery.

Here is the Inside Story.

Russian leader Leonid Brezhnev has appointed the new chief of the Soviet KGB. He is Colonel General Vitali Federchuk.

A mad scramble by the world's brass turned up little information on the new chief of the Russian secret police but I have access to the CIA's assessment of Federchuk. These documents contain some background on the man who will be directing the Soviet underground network.

Brezhnev himself forced Federchuk on an underling KGB leader in 1970. The CIA report says, I am quoting, the leader was completely taken aback by this appointment. He refuses even to shake hands with him.

The report calls Federchuk a Brezhnev ally who came to power to rout nationalist dissidents. He even managed to spy on his superior and later had him ousted by Brezhnev. In fact, Federchuk made sure that particular leader was thrown out three years later.

My CIA sources say Federchuk may only be in power as long as Brezhnev is around. You see, Brezhnev speeded him through the ranks. Federchuk hasn't made too many other friends in the Kremlin, so unless he buddies up to Brezhnev's eventual successor Federchuk may head the KGB only as long as Brezhnev is around.